

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A coating composition comprising

A) at least one hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer having an OH value from 160 to 200 mg KOH/g and a weight average molecular weight Mw from 2,500 to 30,000 and

B) at least one polyisocyanate cross-linking agent;

wherein the hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer A) is obtained by

AI) free-radically copolymerizing a monomer mixture comprising

a) at least one hydroxy functional free-radically copolymerizable olefinically unsaturated monomer,

b) at least one cycloaliphatic ester of a free-radically copolymerizable olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid and

c) at least one additional free-radically copolymerizable olefinically unsaturated monomer which is different from component a) and b) and

II) reacting at least part of the hydroxyl groups of the hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer obtained in step AI) with

d) at least one lactone compound;

wherein the hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer obtained in step AI) has a glass transition temperature Tg of at least 50°C and wherein said copolymer is free of epoxy-functional free-radically copolymerizable olefinically unsaturated monomers.

Claim 2 (original): The coating composition according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer A) comprises 30-60 wt-% of component a), 15-40 wt-% of component b), 10-40 wt-% of component c) and 18-40 wt-% of component d), the proportions by weight of components a) to d) totaling 100 wt-%.

Claim 3 (original): The coating compositions according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer A) has an OH value from 170-190 mg KOH/g, a weight average molecular weight Mw from 2,500 to 20,000.

Claim 4 (original): The coating compositions according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylic copolymer obtained in step A1) has an OH value from 170-280 mg KOH/g, a weight average molecular weight Mw from 2,000 to 20,000 and a glass transition temperature Tg from 60°C to 100°C.

Claim 5 (original): The coating compositions according to claim 1, in which component a) comprises at least one hydroxyalkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid.

Claim 6 (original): The coating compositions according to claim 1, in which component b) comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, trimethylcyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, 4-tert. butylcyclohexyl (meth)acrylate, isobornyl (meth)acrylate.

Claim 7 (original): The coating compositions according to claim 1, in which component c) comprises at least one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon.

Claim 8 (original): The coating composition according to claim 1, in which component d) is epsilon-caprolacton.

Claim 9 (original): A process which comprises applying a multi-layer coating on a substrate using a coating composition according to claim 1 and curing said coating.

Claim 10 (original): A process for multi-layer coating of substrates which comprises applying a top coat layer to a substrate pre-coated with one or more coating layers, wherein the top coat layer comprises of a color-and/or special effect-imparting base coat coating compound and a clear coat coating compound, and wherein the clear coating layer comprises the coating composition according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (original): A process for multi-layer coating of substrates which comprises applying a top coat layer to a substrate pre-coated with one or more coating layers, wherein the top coat layer comprises of a pigmented one-layer top coat coating compound, and wherein the pigmented one-layer top coat coating layer comprises the coating composition according to claim 1.

Claim 12 (original): The process according to claim 10, wherein the substrates are selected from the group consisting of automotive bodies and automotive body parts.

Claim 13 (original): The process according to claim 11, wherein the substrates are selected from the group consisting of automotive bodies and automotive body parts.